

# County of Los Angeles Fire Department

## ***Fire Safety***



**FIRE CHIEF P. MICHAEL FREEMAN**  
1320 N. Eastern Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90063

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## **BRUSH CLEARANCE TIPS**

### ***Wildland Fire Season Preparations, A Year-Round Responsibility***

**Santa Clarita Valley (CA):** This year's precipitation produced an abundance of growth in easy to ignite grass and light fuels. As a result, this year's brush fire season is predicted to be very active, fast moving, and dangerous. Individual property owners are urged to comply with brush clearance notices mailed in February. Consider the following suggestions while preparing your property and your family for this year's brush fire season. Local fire companies will be checking individual properties beginning in May.

#### **Home Landscaping and Yard**

- Remove flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 30 ft. of any structures. Increase to 50 ft. in high hazard areas. Thin out or remove other vegetation an additional 70 ft. from structures for a total of 100 ft. (200 ft. in high hazard areas).
- Single trees, ornamental shrubbery and ground covers may be permitted provided they do not readily transmit fire from native vegetation to structures.
- Landscape with plants that are drought tolerant and fire resistant. Maintain plants!
- Space trees and shrubs a minimum of 15 ft. apart or three times their diameter from other shrubs.
- Trees should be spaced to allow to minimum of 30 ft. between canopies at maturity.
- Trees taller than 18 ft., prune lower branches within 6 ft. of the ground.
- For trees and shrubs of less than 18 ft., prune lower branches to one-third of their height.
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches and leaves.
- Remove all stacks of combustible materials.
- Stack wood at least 30 ft. from structures. Remove flammable vegetation within 10 ft. of woodpiles.
- Located fixed butane/propane tanks at least 10 ft. from any structure and maintain 10 ft. of clearance.

#### **Home Access**

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood.
- Post road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads and height and weight limits.
- Clear back flammable vegetation at least 10 ft. from roads and driveways.

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*Our Vision* The Los Angeles County Fire Department will be an exemplary organization acclaimed for our national reputation, our regional strength, and our hometown attentiveness as we provide fire protection and life safety services.

#### *Core Values*

**INTEGRITY ♦ TEAMWORK ♦ CARING ♦ COURAGE ♦ COMMITMENT ♦ COMMUNITY**

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### **Home Access (cont.)**

- Cut overhanging tree branches about roads to provide minimum of 16 ft. of clearance.
- Make sure street names and numbers are visible at intersections.

The Brush Clearance Program is a joint effort between the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Weed Hazard and Pest Abatement Bureau (Weed Abatement Division.) This unified enforcement legally declares both improved and vacant, unimproved, properties a public nuisance, and where necessary, clearing or removing the hazard. The cost of clearance will be assessed on the property tax bill. For more information contact media relations at (323) 881-2413.

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